

Application No.: 10/623,709

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Docket No.: 306812002601

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1-20 have been canceled and claims 76-100 have been added. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 76-100 are currently under consideration. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable.

Claim Rejections Under Doctrine of Double Patenting.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-20 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,630,842. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests that the above-cited rejection be withdrawn.

New Independent Claims

Independent claims 76 and 94 have been added to the application. Claims 77-93 depend from claim 76, and claims 95-100 depend from claim 94. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are distinguishable from all references of record.

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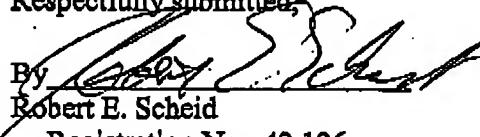
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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 306812002601. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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